THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

# MILLENNIAL STAR.

*"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant."*
—ISAIAH xxiv, 5.

No. 52, Vol. XLVIII. Monday, December 27, 1886. Price One Penny.

## SPIRITUALISM *VS.* CHRISTIANITY.

BY ELDER C. J. THOMAS.

In this great age of boasted civilization and enlightenment, also of great scientific discoveries and wonderful inventions, we find the all-important science, that of theology, in a most deplorable state, confusion and strife, being the universal condition of the so-called Christian world. While on one hand the scientific world is making rapid strides of advancement, on the other, we are sorry to say, it is making a retrograde movement in the grand science of theology.

The question might be asked, how has this come about, and wherefore is this all-important science in such a condition? We answer, the reason is simply this: prior to the year 1820 we find the whole of Christendom lulled, as it were, in a deep spiritual sleep, for the Evil One had brought a stupor over their beclouded minds, until the boy prophet, JOSEPH SMITH, electrified the world and startled them from their deep lethargic slumbers with the grand announcement that the heavens were once more opened for communication between the Great Creator of the Universe and the human race; this announcement instead of being received with great joy and thanksgiving by the human family, especially the religious portion, was derided and scoffed at, and the cry went forth: "No new revelation is needed, the canon of Scripture is full," and from that hour persecution fell upon the lad who made the announcement, also upon those who received the glorious message.

It was not long before the tactics of the Evil One were changed, for the idea of new revelation and the principles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were beginning to make headway with the honest of heart, so therefore, somewhere about the year 1840, two sisters by the name of Fox, in the City of Rochester, State of New York, proclaimed to the world that they had spiritual manifestations in the shape of spirit table rapping, which rapping would answer any question through the medium of these ladies. This statement created quite a sensation and spread far and

wide; the dupes to this delusion paying out their money to obtain spurious revelation through this source, while the genuine article, a short time previously, had been rejected. The world thought they could obtain all the revelation they desired through the medium of spiritualism, which sometimes they paid pretty dearly for.

While this was going on, the believers in divine revelation—which is without money and without price, free to all—were suffering great persecution, till at last the Prophet Joseph and his brother, Hyrum, were slain by professing Christians.

Spirit rapping became too weak and feeble for the vitiated tastes of its adherents, so we next hear of the Davenport Brothers, who would allow themselves to be tied in chairs, firmly and securely with strong cords by any person, then after being shut up in their cabinet, which would only hold two persons and could be thoroughly examined by any one, would, in about one or two minutes walk out with every knot untied; then they would return back into the cabinet, be shut in, and in about the same time as it took before, at a given signal the doors were opened and the brothers were discovered tied firmly to the chairs, with the same kind of knots and in the same position as they were in at first. We have not seen these gentlemen, but have seen others perform the very same things.

We next hear of the Planchette, the spiritual writing medium, which, in appearance, is something like the painter's palette, resting upon small wheels with a pencil in front. It would write the answer to any question asked very rapidly when the operator would place his hand upon it. The photographic art was next brought into requisition, when those desirious could obtain photos of their departed relatives and friends. Then there are the "Trance Speakers" and dark science exhibitions, etc.

The attention of the scientists and deep thinkers of the day was drawn to investigate these great phenomena, with the avowed intention of exposing the delusion, but, wonderful to relate, instead of exposing, a number of them fell into the snare themselves. How is it that such men, who had for years rejected so-called Christianity, accepted this delusion. The reason is simply this: the dogmas of Sectarians, such as "a heaven beyond the bounds of time and space," and a "God without body, parts or passions," could not be accepted by men of thought and deep research, but spiritualism seemed to have something tangible about it, and, therefore, was grasped at with avidity by great numbers.

Is it not strange, says the skeptic, that these mediums can, in a dreamy or semi unconscious state, reveal such wonderful things about our dear relatives and friends, and a great deal of the information be true? Not at all strange, my friends, when we understand how these mediums are operated upon. It is generally understood, that every living human being that is born into the world whose intellectual organs are unimpared, have two influences, or agents, to meet; the good who prompts it to every good thought and action; the other, its opposite. Now the individual is left to choose for himself which of these agents he will accept, good or evil; having accepted one, the influence of the other becomes weaker, until it is of little avail, still the rejected agent is near at hand ready to render services at any moment either for good or evil. This being the case, our every thought and actions all through our lives would be known to these agents, then when any one goes to inquire of these spiritual mediums, the evil agent takes possession of the medium who then is qualified to answer any question propounded to it, being in possession of a spirit that knows every mark on our person, also knew our departed relatives and friends as well as we did, and can, no doubt, mimic their voices, as we have often heard actors at theatres mimic voices of different persons so perfectly that we could almost imagine the people they were imitating were standing before us talking. We have not only heard voices mimicked by the actor, but have seen him represent several well know celebrities to the very life, so that any one would think the persons represented were actually there before them; this goes to show that both the ear and the eye can be de-

ceived. Now if any one thinks that Satan or his emissaries are not capable of doing the like, by imitating the voices or representing the persons of our departed relatives and friends, are laboring under a great mistake, for we are informed by the Apostle Paul, in the 11th chapter of 2nd Corinthians, 14th and 15th verses: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness."

But says one how do you know that it is the evil agent that takes possession of the medium? Might it not be the guardian angel that enters into the medium? The reason we know it is from the evil source the medium receives, is because the Lord in His holy word has forbidden and condemned such evil practices. Another reason is, spiritualism denies and ignores Jesus Christ as being the Son of God and the Savior of the world, but says He was a great spiritual medium, when we are told in John's 1st epistle, 2nd chapter, 22nd and 23rd verses: "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also." We find also in the 12th chapter of Luke, 8th and 9th verses, these words: "Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: but he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." Now we consider these are strong reasons to prove that it is the evil influence that takes possession of the medium, seeing that spiritualism denies the divine nature of Jesus Christ.

We will now quote a few passages from the holy Scriptures to show that the evil practice of divination and seeking after seducing spirits is denounced by the Almighty (Leviticus xix, 31): "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them." In the 20th chapter of the same book, and the 6th verse: "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." In the 18th chapter of Deuteronomy, 9th to 14th verses: "When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. They shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do." The Prophet Isaiah says on the subject (8th chap. 19th verse): "And when they shall say unto you, seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" In Micah, 5th chapter and 12th verse, it says: "And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers." In the 5th chapter of Mark, 2nd to 16th verses, we read of Jesus casting out of a man a legion of devils which entered into a herd of swine. In Acts the 13th chapter, from 6th to 11th verses, a certain sorcerer was struck blind for trying to pervert the ways of the Lord. Also in Acts the 16th chapter, from 16th to 18th verses, Paul cast out a spirit of divination from a damsel. In Paul's 2nd epistle of Thessalonians, 2nd chapter, 8th to 10th verses, he says: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all

[CONCLUDED ON PAGE 822.]

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1886.

## THE PAST YEAR.

ANOTHER year will have passed away before the issue of our next number, this one being the last of the volume and the last of the year. Thus day by day passes, and the report thereof is borne to heaven of us and all mankind; week by week and year by year brings the disciple of Christ—the Saint of latter-days—nearer home. We are like the worthies of God of old, we look for a city which hath foundations, "whose builder and maker is God." We are strangers and pilgrims on the earth, and are not of the world, but "desire a better country, that is, an heavenly."

Second by second, minute by minute, hour by hour, and day by day the time has flown away imperceptibly, and it has brought us through another year and on to the threshold of a new born year. So as the years pass away is our character formed, either developed in strength or weakness, in love of righteousness or of iniquity, in good or bad habits.

How many have passed away to another sphere since the dawn of the year 1886, who had no more idea of it than we have ourselves; they were laying plans and making arrangements for the future as we are doing individually, for death, as a general thing, comes upon us unawares, and few there are who are prepared for the summons. Notwithstanding we all know we are under the sentence of death, and that our stay here is only temporary, we dislike to dwell upon it, or to make any arrangements for the inevitable. How many a person has died intestate, to the great inconvenience and probable distress of those whom he loved, because of the absurd idea that it was unlucky to make a will. Such simple superstition! If there was anything sensible in the idea of being lucky or unlucky, we should certainly prefer to think it was very unlucky not to make a will, because it would be surely a source of regret both to the living and the dead. We may surely sensibly depend upon it that our making a will or leaving it undone will not determine our allotted time upon this earth. God has appointed the bounds of our habitation, and determined the times before appointed, therefore it may be very reasonable for us to suppose He knows something about the time we will stay here. These superstitions are simply the results of darkness and ignorance, and are a reproach upon our boasted civilization.

Since the dawning of this year many faithful Saints have passed away in

the hope of a glorious resurrection, having filled their lives in honor and integrity. Some few have fallen, being overcome by the power of Satan, and deserted the ranks of King Emmanuel, have sold their birthright for a mess of pottage, betrayed their brethren and gone over to the side of the adversary.

The persecution of the Latter-day Saints by the American government has developed a heroism most praiseworthy on the part of the Saints in the noble manner in which they have suffered for conscience sake; the testimony they have borne in their integrity, shows that the love of God and the principles of religious liberty in the souls of true men and women—in the image of God—is as heroic and invincible to-day as it has ever been. The old, noble, indomitable spirit of the love of truth and righteousness, that burned in the souls of the Saints of God when they were persecuted for the same principles, and under the law, in the days of the Roman government, still burns in the breasts of the Saints—the disciples of Jesus Christ—to-day.

How history repeats itself! One would think that an ordinary school-boy, much less an American statesman, might have learned, in the lessons of the past, the impossibility of stamping out religion, even if it was a false one, by persecution under the law. There is no majesty in any law, in any Christian nation, that conflicts with the Bible. What has it done in Utah? developed a nobility, a self-sacrificing, patient spirit, pure as the fine gold, in the Latter-day Saints who love truth and righteousness; and on the other hand, to what a shameful extent of inhumanity so-called intelligent men will go if you only pay them for it. If there is money in it, a certain class of men—heaven save the mark!—will stoop to commit outrages against their fellows, in the name of law, that would shame Satan himself, and make decent men blush for poor, fallen humanity, and sorry for the suffering they will bring upon themselves when they come to the understanding that they have fought against Jesus Christ in persecuting those whose sole object is to do His will and keep His commandments.

Then we have had the terrible accounts of the calamities that have overtaken the nations in the loss of life and property by earthquakes, eruptions, storms, pestilence and famine—the signs of the times—which it is impossible for us to close our eyes against, or to say the prophecies of the Scriptures are not being fulfilled. Then the Gospel of the Kingdom is being extended towards being preached in all nations for a witness. All tend to proclaim that 1886 has been a most remarkable year.

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ARRIVALS AND APPOINTMENTS.—Elders Thomas Etherington and Christian L. Christensen arrived in Liverpool on Saturday, the 18th inst, per S.S. *Wisconsin*, of the Guion Line. T. Etherington is appointed to labor in the Newcastle Conference; C. L. Christensen is on his way to Denmark.

Elder Andrew Hyer arrived in Liverpool, on Tuesday, the 21st inst., from Scandinavia, where he has been laboring. He is appointed to labor in the London Conference.

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LONDON CONFERENCE.—Meetings of the London Conference will be held on Sunday, January 16, 1887, at Orson's Assembly Rooms, 23, New Road, Commercial Road, Whitechapel, London, commencing 10-30 a.m. and 2-30 and 6-30 p.m.

## SPIRITUALISM VS. CHRISTIANITY.

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We think we have proven our assertion that the Almighty does condemn most emphatically all spiritual divination, except that which is given through the legitimate channel of His Holy Priesthood.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

Randolph, Utah, Nov. 30, 1886.

President D. H. Wells.

Dear Brother,—Having arrived safely at home and got somewhat settled, I send you a brief account of my labors in the missionary field.

I was called to go on a mission at the October Conference, 1884, and left home on the 27th of that month for Salt Lake City, where I was set apart for my mission, and ordained a Seventy by Apostle F. M. Lyman.

On the morning of the 29th of October, in company with fourteen other Elders and two visitors, we left for England, and arrived in Liverpool by the S.S. *Wyoming*, on the 14th of November, where we were met by President John H. Smith and Elder Geo. C. Lambert. I was assigned to the Bristol Conference, where I labored, in my weak way, for eighteen months—six months under the Presidency of Elder N. M. Hodges, and then under the Presidency of Elder M. M. Sheets during the remainder of my stay in that Conference. I was then transferred to the Norwich Conference, to labor under the direction of President A. V. Call, where I spent the remainder of my time in Old England.

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Ever praying for the welfare of the work of the Lord, and with kind regards to yourself and all the Saints, I am your brother in the Gospel of Christ,

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*(Summarized from Territorial Papers.)*

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## POETRY.

### OUR CHRISTMAS GUEST.

When the holly and the ivy
In their wonted places glow,
When we sit in ease and comfort,
Shutting out the frost and snow;
When we greet each other, smiling,
Gay with carol-song and jest,
Let us give our warmest welcome
To our little Christmas guest—

To the little darling baby,
Sweet as flow'rs and pure as snow,
More unspotted, more confiding
Than aught else on earth below.

He who made earth's joyful Christmas,
Welcomed by his mother's kiss,
Greeted by the wise men's homage,
Was a Baby such as this.

Then there were no glad bells pealing,
But above the quiet earth
Glittered Bethlehem's starry beacon,
Pointing to His place of birth.

For the sake of that glad Christmas
Let us do our Lord's behest—
Hold the youngest still the dearest,
Welcome, little Christmas guest!

SUSANNA J. in *Family Herald*.

## DIED.

GODDARD.—At Nottingham, November 30, 1886, of consumption, Elizabeth Goddard. She was born April 12, 1877; baptized May 6, 1886.

WEBB.—At Millville, Cache County, Utah, October 28, 1886, of a paralytic stroke, Anthony Webb, son of John and Ann Webb. Deceased was born October 23, 1811, at Hinton-on-the-Green, Worcestershire, England; was baptized June 23, 1851, and presided over the Compton Branch of the Bristol Conference, and emigrated to Utah in the year 1874. He was the father of twelve children, only five being now alive. Deceased bore a good character and was a faithful Latter-day Saint until the day of his death.

Make the best of what you have rather than make your life miserable by wishing for what you have not.

The hardest thing is to keep cheerful under the little stings that come from uncongenial surroundings, the very insignificance of which adds to their power to annoy, because they cannot be wrestled with and overcome, as in the case of larger hurts. Some disagreeable habit in one to whom we may owe respect and duty, and which is a constant irritation to our sense of the fitness of things, may demand of us a greater moral force to keep the spirit serene than an absolute wrong committed against us. In the one case endurance is all that is possible; in the other we may sometimes rightfully fight, and there is a world of comfort in the power of action.

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## SPIRITUALISM *VS.* CHRISTIANITY.

[CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 819].

deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

We think we have proven our assertion that the Almighty does condemn most emphatically all spiritual divination, except that which is given through the legitimate channel of His Holy Priesthood.

Then should not the Latter-day Saints be thankful to our Father in heaven that they are permitted to live in this great age when His glorious Gospel has once more been sent to the earth, and were counted worthy to become members of His Church and kingdom. Let us then show our gratitude to Him by living the lives of Saints in very deed, so that we may overcome all the evil temptations of the world, for we are told in Mark 13th chapter and 22nd verse: "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect." And what is all this for? The Apostle Paul, in his 2nd epistle of Thessalonians, 2nd chapter, 11th and 12th verses, tells us the reason why; he says; "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Randolph, Utah, Nov. 30, 1886.

President D. H. Wells.

Dear Brother, — Having arrived safely at home and got somewhat settled, I send you a brief account of my labors in the missionary field.

I was called to go on a mission at the October Conference, 1884, and left home on the 27th of that month for Salt Lake City, where I was set apart for my mission, and ordained a Seventy by Apostle F. M. Lyman.

On the morning of the 29th of October, in company with fourteen other Elders and two visitors, we left for England, and arrived in Liverpool by the S.S. *Wyoming*, on the 14th of November, where we were met by President John H. Smith and Elder Geo. C. Lambert. I was assigned to the Bristol Conference, where I labored, in my weak way, for eighteen months—six months under the Presidency of Elder N. M. Hodges, and then under the Presidency of Elder M. M. Sheets during the remainder of my stay in that Conference. I was then transferred to the Norwich Conference, to labor under the direction of President A. V. Call, where I spent the remainder of my time in Old England.

I can say that I enjoyed my labors and gained an experience that I value very highly. I was able to baptize a few into the fold of Christ, and assisted at many others. I was also enabled to gather up some of my genealogy, and hope to be able to do a work for some of my ancestors that will bring joy and satisfaction to them in the future.

In my labors and travels with the Saints and friends I was greatly blessed, and here desire to thank the Saints of the Bristol and Norwich Conferences for their many acts of kindness to me while I labored among them, and hope that the way may be opened for them all to be able to gather to the land of Zion.

Ever praying for the welfare of the work of the Lord, and with kind regards to yourself and all the Saints, I am your brother in the Gospel of Christ,

WILLIAM REX.

Be pleasant and kind to those around you. The man who stirs his cup with an icicle spoils the tea and chills his own fingers.

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## UTAH NEWS.

*(Summarised from Territorial Papers.)*

The Grand Jury has ignored the case of Mr. Geo. W. Thatcher, for want of evidence against him.

John Adams, of Centreville, has been arraigned on a four-count indictment, charging him with unlawful cohabitation.

Chas. W Hemenway, of Ogden, announces that he will soon commence the publishing of a new paper, the Ogden *Gazette*.

After serving two months and thirteen days more than his time John W. Snell was released from the Penitentiary Nov. 26th.

L. G. Hardy, who has been appointed collector of taxes for Salt Lake County, *vice* N. V. Jones, has assumed the duties of his office.

The *Deseret Evening News* has commenced its twentieth volume. It is a champion for truth and liberty. We earnestly wish it every success.

Four deputy marshals made a raid on Brigham City between two and three o'clock in the morning. They searched several houses, but made no arrests.

Two sections of a Utah northern train collided on Wednesday, Nov. 24th, demolishing two engines and killing James McCabe, of Eagle Rock.

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